

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A device for sealing a puncture tract by forming and extruding an autologous plug within the puncture tract, wherein the puncture tract is disposed within tissue proximal to a vessel, the device comprising:

a housing comprising an outer tube and an inner tube having common distal ends, the inner tube having a lumen ~~in flow communication with the puncture tract and the vessel, the inner tube further having~~ and a plurality of lateral openings in fluid communication with the outer tube, the lumen being configured to receive a volume of blood ~~provided in the lumen of the inner tube being mixable with and~~ a blood congealing agent ~~provided to the volume of blood to~~ form the autologous plug;

a closure element configured to be inserted from the housing into the puncture tract and to isolate the volume of blood admixed with the blood congealing agent from the vessel during formation of the autologous plug ~~from the volume of blood by action of the blood congealing agent~~; and

a plunger disposed for translation within the lumen to extrude the autologous plug formed within the lumen.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the housing comprises a second lumen defined by an annular interstice between the outer tube and the inner tube, the second lumen being in fluid communication with the lumen of the inner tube ~~and wherein the second lumen is dimensioned to receive a blood congealing agent in fluid communication with the second lumen.~~

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the autologous plug formed in the lumen has a length and a form factor that causes the autologous plug to engage tissue surrounding the puncture tract after ~~ejection~~ extrusion of the autologous plug by the plunger into the puncture tract.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the closure element comprises a pledget and thread.

26. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 25[[21]], wherein at least one of the pledget or the thread is biodegradable.

27. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the blood congealing agent is pre-disposed within the lumen.

32. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 31[[21]], wherein the blood congealing agent is coated onto an interior surface of the lumen.

33. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 21, wherein the blood congealing agent is introduced into the lumen through the plurality of lateral openings.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the blood congealing agent comprises a platinum wire.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the blood congealing agent comprises a thermo-resistive wire.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the blood congealing agent is chosen from the group consisting of thrombin, fibrin, human factor VIII, and combinations thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 31[[21]], wherein the blood congealing agent comprises a matrix.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 37, wherein the matrix is chosen from the group consisting of gauze, biocompatible foam, and spun fiber.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 37, wherein the matrix is biodegradable.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 37, wherein the matrix comprises at least one channel disposed therethrough.

41. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the inner tube is fixed relative to the outer tube.

42. (New) The device claim 21, wherein the inner tube is at least partially disposed within the outer tube.

43. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the closure element is disposed at least partially within the inner tube.

44. (New) The device of claim 22, wherein the housing further comprises a port in fluid communication with the second lumen.

45. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the lateral openings are disposed through and along the axial length of the inner tube.